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OCT 13 2010

Public Comment about the TMDL draft in Virginia:

Proper clean up of the Chesapeake Bay has been extremely necessary and long overdue. A large amount of the pollution in the watershed is due to the failure of past generations to properly restrict the amount of pollution allowed to enter the bay. With Virginia's proposed WIP, this passing of burdens from generation to generation will only continue to occur. The WIP draft fails to provide step-by-step details on how the program is accurately going to clean up the bay and limit the amount of chemicals in the bay and local rivers and streams. The majority of the draft seems to stress the lack of money available for funding this project. However, what the state fails to understand is that without cleaning up our bays, there will be an even greater economic burden on local businesses and companies that flourish from the bay. Along with this, the state feels that they have made "great" decreases in the pollution levels in the bay, which they claim are not far from the proposed levels the EPA is striving for. If there has been such a BIG decrease in pollution levels, then why is the watershed still green and brown? Instead of focusing on the economic standpoint, the state should want to clean up the bay for the community as a whole. As an undergraduate at the University of Richmond, I know that I deserve the right to swim in the James River without having to worry about getting sick. I also believe the animals that actually live in the water deserve the right to live in an environment free from pollutants. We should set aside the tendency to want to pass on the burdens of the pollution to future generations, and instead set logical pollution restrictions to clean up the Chesapeake today!

OCT 08 2010